

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/825,993

Examiner

Medina A. Ibrahim

Applicant(s)

MA ET AL.

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephonic interview of 03/13/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Steinberger on 03/13/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended). A process for removing a pollutant through a foliar application, comprising the steps of:

growing a [live] fern plant selected from the group consisting of *Pteridaceae*, *Adiantaceae*, *Aspleniaceae*, *Dryopteridaceae*, and *Oleandraceae*, in an environment site containing the pollutant; and

removing a portion of the pollutant by phytoremediation through contact with a live part of the [live] fern plant.

Claim 26 (Currently amended). A process for removing a pollutant through an excised plant part, comprising [the steps of]:

excising a live part of a fern plant selected from the group consisting of *Pteridaceae*, *Adiantaceae*, *Aspleniaceae*, *Dryopteridaceae*, and *Oleandraceae*;

Art Unit: 1638

applying the excised live plant part to an environment site containing the pollutant; and

removing a portion of the pollutant by phytoremediation through contact with the excised live plant part.

Claim 29 (Currently amended). The process of claim 26, wherein the environment site includes: a contaminated [water selected from at least one of:] ground water or contaminated [and] surface water.

At claim 33, ---live--- is inserted after "excised".

Claim 46 (Currently amended). A process for removing a pollutant through ground up plant part, comprising [the steps]:

excising a live part of a fern plant selected from the group consisting of *Pteridaceae*, *Adiantaceae*, *Aspleniaceae*, *Dryopteridaceae*, and *Oleandraceae* ;

grounding the excised plant part into ground [up parts of] biomass; and

removing a portion of the pollutant by phytoremediation through contact with the ground biomass.

At claims 49-50, "up parts of the" has been deleted.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Medina A. Ibrahim whose telephone number is (571)

Art Unit: 1638

272-0797. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday -Thursday from 8:00AM to 5:30PM and every other Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00 PM . Before and after final responses should be directed to fax nos. (703) 872-9306 and (703) 872-9307, respectively.

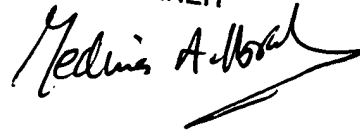
If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg, can be reached at (571) 272-0975.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

03/16/06

Mai

MEDINA A. IBRAHIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Medina A. Ibrahim", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.